

I'm Kim Wilbert, lucky enough to be a life-long resident of Wyoming, and I'm currently serving as the chapter chair for the Wyoming chapter of the Sierra Club. I want to thank the Department of Interior for initiating this review of the BLM coal leasing program and for hearing my testimony today about how new rules for coal leasing should be crafted. I have four areas of concern that I ask the department to address in the new coal leasing program. First, the new program must address the tremendous costs of coal mining on federal lands in terms of climate change. Second, the rule has to be written to not allow coal corporations to self-bond their future mine reclamation costs. Third, the new coal leasing program must include measures to offset the loss of economic opportunities for people and communities most affected by the transition away from coal. Lastly, the new coal leasing program must create transparency, eliminate tax loopholes, and allow the owners of these public resources full access to public -- to coal leasing processes and transactions. Coal lease terms must include the cost to our whole planet of adding that carbon to our atmosphere. The burning of federally owned coal is a huge contributor to the ever-rising carbon dioxide of atmosphere. The tremendous future costs of dealing with climate change must be accounted for when the taxpayers of this country sell their coal. Most of the publicly owned coal mined in Wyoming through the BLM federal leasing program lies under the grasslands, ranches, and wildlife habitat of Wyoming. Many of us, myself included, chose Wyoming as our home because of our beautiful landscapes and diverse wildlife. Unfortunately, coal companies have been permitted to self-bond rather than paying for real insurance that would cover reclamation costs after mining was complete, which now means that taxpayers will likely have to pay hundreds of millions of dollars to restore these mine lands to a usable condition for wildlife and ranching. The new program must include money sources to help miners and communities dependent on coal mines to transition away from coal. We must make these corporations be responsible community actors and make whole these people that have worked to create the corporate profits from this publicly owned resource. The current coal leasing system allows the mining companies to mine incredibly cheap coal and then take advantage of the tax loopholes. The new program should have transparency so the taxpayer groups may keep the citizens

informed about how the valuable resource is being sold so that the public to whom this coal belongs can truly be involved with those sales. Thank you.